## ABSTRACT

(57)

A method for suppressing undesired viral growth in a host which comprises administering to the host an effective amount of a compound of the formula:

$$\begin{array}{c} CH_{3} \\ R_{1} \\ CH_{3} \end{array}$$

wherein  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$ ,  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  are independently selected from the group consisting of HO—, CH<sub>3</sub>O— and CH<sub>3</sub>(C=O) O—. The method is exemplified by inhibiting Tat transaction of a lentivirus and in suppressing Herpes simplex virus